

**See inside:**

- Key challenges we want your feedback on
- Future projects
- What is happening with your rates



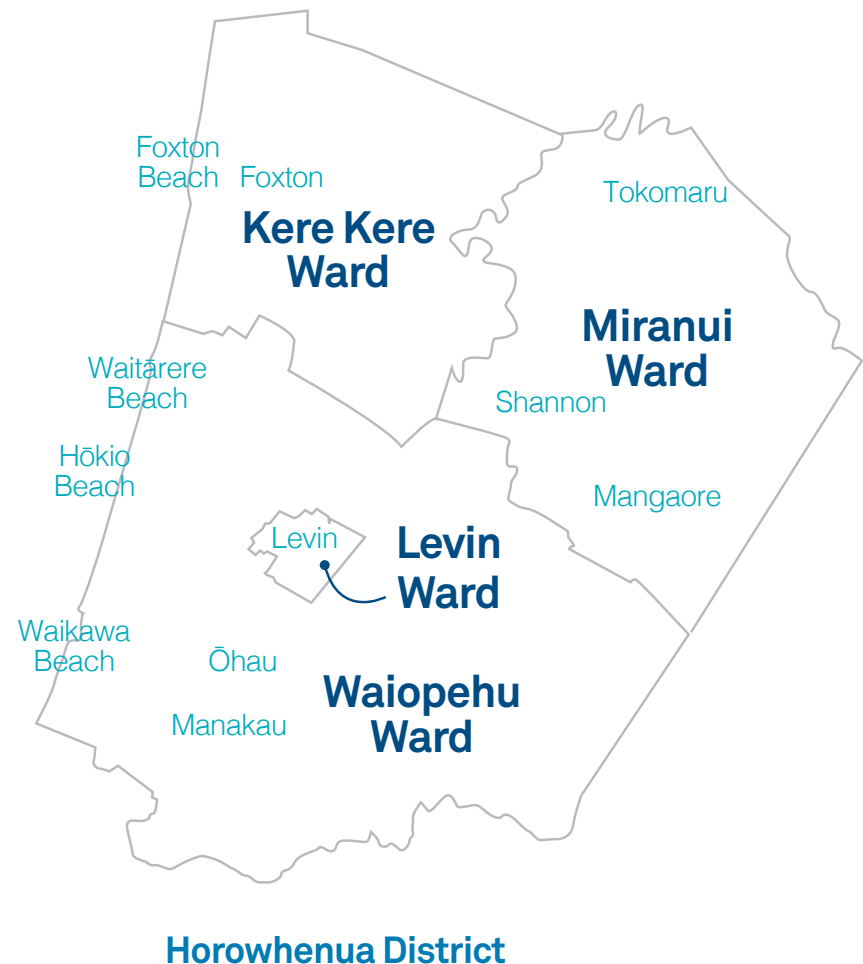
# Read me!

## What's Our Future?

Long Term Plan 2018-2038  
Consultation Document

# Welcome to our Consultation Document for the 2018–2038 Long Term Plan.

The plan that sets out what Horowhenua District Council is going to do over the next 20 years. The purpose of the Consultation Document is to provide you with a basis to have your say on what the Long Term Plan ends up looking like.







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20 years,  
that's ages!  
I'll be 26 by then  
and probably have  
a cool job.

In 20 years there  
will be more pools, more  
bowling, more schools and  
I will be a sculpturer!

## Introducing Maia and Xander

The champions of the  
Long Term Plan  
2018-2038.

Maia is a third generation 'Levinian' and loves to dance. Xander moved here with his mum when he was four-years-old and was recently awarded a certificate for being a good friend at school.

The Long Term Plan 2018-2038 is all about the future, the place where Maia, Xander and all the children in our District including those that are moving here, will live.



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We have identified three key challenges that we want your feedback on. These have come about as a result of pre-engagement and were identified by Council as being the most pressing.

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# Nā te Kahika

## Message from the Mayor



### Whakahīhi pai ana ahau kia noho hei Kahika mō Horowhenua, inā te taurikura hei wāhi noho, hei wāhi mahi, hei wāhi toro mai.

Ia toru tau ka whakawhiti kōrero te Kaunihera me te Hapori mō ngā kaupapa ka hiahiaia hei whaitanga mā te Kaunihera i te roanga atu o te 20 tau e tū mai ana, me te ara e utua ai aua kaupapa. Koia tētahi wāhanga o te tukanga Whakamahere Tūroa.

He mea nui kia mataara te Kaunihera ki te piki o te taupori e matapaehia ana, me te whakahāngai anō i āna mahi ki tērā. Me eke te kōunga o ngā kaupapa whakatū whare, me rite hoki ngā pūnahanga whakarato i te wai, i te wai para, i te tuku para anō hoki ki te piki o te taupori. Ko ētahi atu āhuatanga hei aro mā tātou, ko te rerekē haere o te āhuarangi, ko te kārewa wainuku, ko te onerere, tērā pea ka hua ake i te rū. Mā konei e manawa roa ai, e manawa tīti ai tō tātou Rohe. Mōku ake, he take nui ēnei.

Kua tautohua e te Kaunihera ētahi wero matua, ētahi take matua, e tino whakaaweawe ana i ō tātou Hapori, hei tuku whakaaro mai mā koutou. Koia ko ēnei:

- Ko ngā Putanga Hapori, pērā i te whiwhi mahi, te hauora, me te oranga pāpori whānui o te iwi, o te taupori e piki haere ana. E whakatairangatia ana a Horowhenua hei wāhi noho mō te

hunga pēperekōu, nō reira kia hāngai ngā pūnahanga o te rohe ki tēnei āhuatanga.

- Ko te whai kia pono, kia tika te whakawhiti kōrero a te Kaunihera me te Hapori, i runga i te mōhio ka whai wāhi atu ngā whakaaro o te marea ki ngā whakataunga a te Kaunihera.
- Ko te mahi tahi me ngā kaiwhakaahu ki te whakarato pūnahanga ki ngā rohe e whanake ana, i te mea karekau he kaupapa here tuku pūtea a te Kaunihera i tēnei wā. E mea ana ahau, kia ngātahi tā te Kaunihera me ngā kaiwhakaahu kawē i ngā utu, ā, e pēnei ana i kaunihera kē atu.
- Ko te whakawhanake i te mahinga tahitanga a te Kaunihera me te Tangata Whenua i runga i te ngākau tapatahi, me te ū anō ki ngā mātāpono o Te Tiriti o Waitangi, e ahu whakamua ai tō tātou rohe.
- Ko te toitūtanga o te wai ki ngā kāinga noho, ki ngā whakahaere tauhokohoko hoki tētahi tino take. Kei runga kē atu te whakapau wai o Horowhenua i ia rā, i te toharite ā-motu, ā, he nui te mōumou o te wai i te pūnaha wai o te rohe. E hiahia ana ahau kia āta whakaarohia e te Hapori, te whakature i te kura wai māori me te kura wai para ki roto i ā tātou tikanga hanga whare, mā konei e rite ai te whakapau wai o te rohe. Pēhea nei ō koutou whakaaro?

He maha ngā kaupapa ka hiahiaia e tēnā, e tēnā, kia whakaurua ki te Mahere Tūroa, engari e whai ana te Kaunihera kia iti te pikinga reiti. Tukuna mai ō koutou whakaaro mō tēnei take. Arā hoki ētahi atu take kāore i whakaurua ki te Mahere Tūroa, engari e mea ana ahau me haere tonu tā te Kaunihera whakawhiti kōrero mō ērā, pērā i Te Mahere Whakahaere Para, Whakaiti Para.

Āpiti atu ki ērā, e ngākaunui ana ahau ki te kōkiri i ētahi atu kaupapa, pērā i te rerewhenua kawē tāngata mai i Taitoko ki Te Whanganui-a-Tara, te pāmu whakatipu kōaka, me te whakaora i Te Roto o Horowhenua, i te awa kōpikopiko hoki o Manawatū i Te Awahou. Ko te whakamātūtū i ēnei taiao hei oranga anō mō te rohe, arā, te taha hauora, te rēhia, te tāpoi hoki, ā, he ara whakapakari i te mahinga tahitanga me te Tangata Whenua.

Ki tua atu i ngā whakamahuki o roto i tēnei Puka Whakawhiti Kōrero mō te Mahere Tūroa, e wātea ana ētahi puka taunaki i tā mātou pae ipurangi, i ngā Taupuni Ratonga hoki a te Kaunihera. Ko te Puka Rautaki, ko te Puka Kaupapa Here, ko te Tauākī Mahi, ko te Puka Matapae ētahi.

Ahakoia he nui ngā take kei mua i te aroaro hei whiriwhiri, hei kawē ake mā tō tātou rohe, he wā whakahohe tonu mō te whakamahere i te ara whakamua. He mea nui kia tukuna mai ō koutou whakaaro.

*Translated by He Kupenga Hao i te Reo*

# “It is vital that Council’s activities reflect this growth and that Horowhenua is best prepared for it.”

## **I am very proud to be the new Mayor of Horowhenua. I believe we have a wonderful District in which to live, work and visit.**

As part of the Long Term Planning process, Council has the opportunity every three years to ask the Community what projects, ideas and plans, they would like Council to embark on over the next 20 years, and how they would like to fund these initiatives and services.

With our forecasted population growth, it is vital that Council’s activities reflect this growth and that Horowhenua is best prepared for it. We need quality housing development, and to ensure that our ability to supply infrastructure for water, wastewater, and rubbish disposal keeps pace with growth. We must also factor in climate change impacts, groundwater levels, and possible liquefaction from earthquakes if we are to be an innovative and resilient District. I personally see these issues as vitally important.

Council has identified key challenges and issues which have significant impacts on our Communities, and we would like to know your thoughts. The issues I see facing our Community are:

- Community Outcomes such as employment, healthcare, and general social wellbeing for our

growing population. Horowhenua is promoted as an area for retired people to move to, and our infrastructure will need to support this.

- Ensuring our Community have truly representative consultation, where residents are confident their views are factored into Council decision-making.
- Providing infrastructure to growth areas in partnership with developers, as Council has no development/financial contributions policy at present. I believe Council and developers must share costs, which is common in other councils.
- Building quality, trusting partnerships with Tangata Whenua reflective of the Treaty of Waitangi principles, to help progress this region.
- Water sustainability, both residentially and commercially, is a hot topic. The Horowhenua water consumption is well above the daily national average and we currently have high water losses in our water network. To meet our water demand I would like the Community to consider whether water tanks and grey water collection tanks become part of our building requirements, what do you think?

While there are many projects we all would like to see included in the LTP, Council needs to balance these with low rates increases. We want your input on how we can do that. There will also be challenges and opportunities that are not in the LTP that I believe should be which Council will consult on concurrently such as the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

There are a number of additional initiatives which I would personally like to see developed, such as regular Levin–Wellington commuter trains, regional hemp growing, and the active remediation of Lake Horowhenua and the Manawatū River Loop at Foxton. Restoring these environments will benefit our health, recreation and tourism outcomes as a region, and is another opportunity to strengthen our partnerships with Tangata Whenua.

While this Consultation Document provides informative detail on the LTP, supporting documents are publicly available on our website and at Council’s Service Centres, and include Strategies, Policies, Activity Statements, and Assumptions.

Our District is facing many key challenges; however it is a very exciting time to be planning our future. This is an important opportunity – be sure to have your say.

# What's it all about?

He aha rā  
Te Mahere Tūroa



We are in the process of developing our next Long Term Plan. The Long Term Plan (LTP) will set out what Council's activities are for the next 20 years.

The LTP is a way for the Community to learn more about Council's activities, financial status, and work priorities.

LTPs are reviewed every three years. The process for developing a LTP is outlined to the right. Currently, we are formally consulting with the Community. The pre-engagement we had with the Community at the end of last year wasn't legally required but was very valuable and has helped us shape this Consultation Document.

The Consultation Document outlines our three key challenges and other topics we want your feedback on, such as the Shannon Community Centre and water sustainability. The Supporting Information to the Consultation Document includes the Infrastructure and Financial Strategies, Financial Statements, Policies, and Activity Statements.

## We want to hear from you

This Consultation Document was released for public consultation on Friday 23 February 2018. If you are wondering where you can find out more information about this Document, its Supporting Information and the submission process please see page 31 of this Document.

**Submissions close  
Monday 26 March 2018**

## LTP Process





# Pre-engagement







We undertook pre-engagement on the LTP to understand what is important to you over the next 20 years.

This engagement took place from September to November last year and the results assisted your Elected Members to make decisions on the supporting strategies and policies in November. There were a number of key challenges and priorities discussed including prioritising core infrastructure, rates affordability, and responding to growth.

In all, 2,680 people took part by sending in postcards, completing surveys, attending meetings of Community and sector groups, social media interaction, talking to Council staff and Elected Members and playing the LTP Priorities Game. The feedback received has helped us understand what is important to you and what you would like to see happen in our District. It has also helped shape what's in this Consultation Document. If you can't find what you were expecting to see in this Document, the likelihood is that

it's already been proposed as part of Council's work (see Supporting Information such as the Infrastructure and Financial Strategies) or it's being consulted on concurrently.

Hi :   
Honest, 'Plain English' communication  
is important to me.  
So, CONGRATULATIONS to HDC  
for these user-friendly postcards!

In 20 years time,  it would be nice  to see a cleaner lake.      
robotics labs  
bigger swimming pool upgrade  
hydro slide  
more things at the adventure park  
Think ahead with heads + heart.  
Our children + grand children will thank you for it

# Concurrent Consultation

Look out for upcoming consultations that are outside the consultation on the LTP. The outcomes from these may result in future changes to the LTP.

Engagement dates are subject to change.



## Horowhenua Growth Strategy 2040

The Growth Strategy will signal where the future growth areas are likely to be - they could involve your land or they might involve your neighbour's land.

## Ōtaki to North of Levin Expressway

NZTA is proposing to build a four-lane expressway from Taylors Road to north of Levin. The proposed routes and interchanges could include your property, home or business.

*\*This is a NZTA run engagement activity*

## Levin Town Centre

We're creating a plan to make Levin Town Centre a destination. This project could include actions that affect your retail property and for everyone who shops in Levin. It will mean big changes to consider.

## Draft Waste Management Minimisation Plan

We need to hear your thoughts on how we as a Community manage our waste and how we can work together to minimise the amount of waste that goes to landfill.

## Earthquake Prone Buildings

We live in a high earthquake zone and need to prioritise thoroughfares in Levin, Foxton and Shannon. We'll then assess every building on the thoroughfare.



# Community Outcomes

## Ngā Putanga Hapori

**We are reviewing our Community Outcomes to ensure Council will be in the best position to tackle challenges to come.**

As set out in the Local Government Act 2002, Community Outcomes are what we aim to achieve in meeting the current and future needs of our Communities for good quality infrastructure, public services and performance of regulatory functions. The Community Outcomes listed here are not in any particular order.

We are keen to get your feedback on the following:



### Thriving communities

- Our Communities have a 'sense of place' that makes people proud to live here.
- Our Community has access to health, social and recreation facilities which enable people to enjoy positive healthy lifestyles.
- Our Communities live in a safe and supportive environment and are empowered to make positive and healthy lifestyle choices.
- Our Communities are inclusive, connected and have the opportunity to influence local outcomes and decisions.
- Our Communities are resilient and provide for intergenerational well-being through networks which care for all ages.
- Our Communities individually and collectively participate in community development.



### An exuberant economy

- We are a welcoming, enabling and business friendly District that encourages economic development.
- We provide opportunities for people of all ages and at all phases of life to enjoy a quality of living within our District that is economically sustainable and affordable.
- We recognise and manage the effects of population growth and actively promote the District as a destination of choice.
- We value the role our District's natural, cultural and social assets play in supporting economic development.



### Stunning environment

- We are proud of our natural and built environments.
- We sustainably manage our environment so it can be enjoyed now and by future generations.
- Our natural resources play a vital role in sustaining the District.
- We actively support improving the health of our District's rivers, lakes and waterways.



- Our community facilities and infrastructure services are planned and developed to meet current and future needs.
- Waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation and efficiency are promoted as part of how we all live.
- We have reliable, efficient and well planned community facilities and infrastructure services.
- Our community facilities and infrastructure are built resiliently, preparing us to combat natural hazards.



- We acknowledge our partnership with the Tangata Whenua of our District through a proactive approach to the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.
- We support Mana Whenua to maintain and enhance their traditions with their ancestral lands and waterways, wāhi tapu and other taonga.
- We will work with local marae, hapū and iwi to support their development and capacity building.
- We value working together to achieve common goals.



- We are proud of the heritage and diversity of our District and our people.
- We respect each other and what we each contribute to the District through our traditions and culture.
- Our Community's cultural diversity is celebrated.



## Did we get the Community Outcomes right?

## Are we missing something, or focusing on something we shouldn't be?

See page 31 on how to make a submission on the Community Outcomes.

# What's happening in our District

## Ngā Kaupapa e haere ana i tō tātou Rohe

**After a generation of decline, growth has recently returned to Horowhenua.**

Council is committed to aiding growth to ensure our economy and Communities become more sustainable and so you can live, work and raise your family here.

For the purposes of forecasting, Council assumes the population will grow by just over 1% per year for the 20-year period of this LTP. This means that by 2038 about 41,128 people will call Horowhenua home. In the past two years the growth rate has exceeded the forecast. The growth is prompted by two major factors: international immigration and regional migration because of major roading improvements between Horowhenua and Wellington.

We expect more people will move here, whether in retirement, for a change of lifestyle, or for job opportunities. Growth could accelerate further if the proposed Ōtaki to North of Levin Expressway occurs. Depending on the outcome of this Expressway, there may be an impact on what has been assumed in terms of growth and associated costs. This could result in an amendment to the LTP.

The increase in population will have a noticeable impact on Council with regard to income, expenditure and asset management.

We have also thought about what happens if the growth doesn't occur or if it occurs faster than we have forecasted. See the Financial Strategy.



## Stormwater

- District-wide stormwater improvements (including for growth)
- Improving the discharge quality of stormwater at Lake Horowhenua and working towards discharge consent

## Water Supply

- Levin clarifier installation
- Upgrade of Levin WTP
- Renewals (i.e. replacement of assets) of water infrastructure in Foxton, Foxton Beach, Levin, Shannon, Mangaore and Tokomaru
- Renewals of the Levin and Shannon WTPs
- Upgrades (i.e. improvement of assets) of water networks in Levin and Foxton to service growth areas

## Wastewater

- Shannon disposal system
- Renewals of wastewater infrastructure in Foxton, Levin and Tokomaru
- Renewals and upgrade of the Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Levin wastewater network upgrade (pump stations)
- Upgrade of the Foxton WWTP
- Relocate wastewater ponds in Foxton Beach
- Upgrade of the Tokomaru Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Upgrades of wastewater networks in Levin and Foxton to service growth areas

Heaps is happening

**Community Support**  
Community development, emergency management, visitor services

**Planning and Regulatory Services**  
Consents, controls, regulations and bylaws



## Community Facilities and Services

Parks, libraries, recreation and community centres

## Stormwater

Drainage and stormwater discharge infrastructure

## Wastewater

Sewerage networks and treatment plants

## Representation and Community Leadership

Public engagement in decisions, planning and policy

## Land Transport

Local roads, bridges, footpaths and street lights

## Property

Maintenance of public land and buildings

## Solid Waste Management

Rubbish disposal and recycling services

## Water Supply

Water treatment plants and supply networks

## Treasury and Support

People and operational resources

## Land Transport

- Road improvements, including resealing and bridge maintenance
- Renewals of footpaths and constructing new ones
- Shared Pathways
- Foxton Main Street upgrade
- Local road improvements due to the Wellington Expressway

## Community Facilities

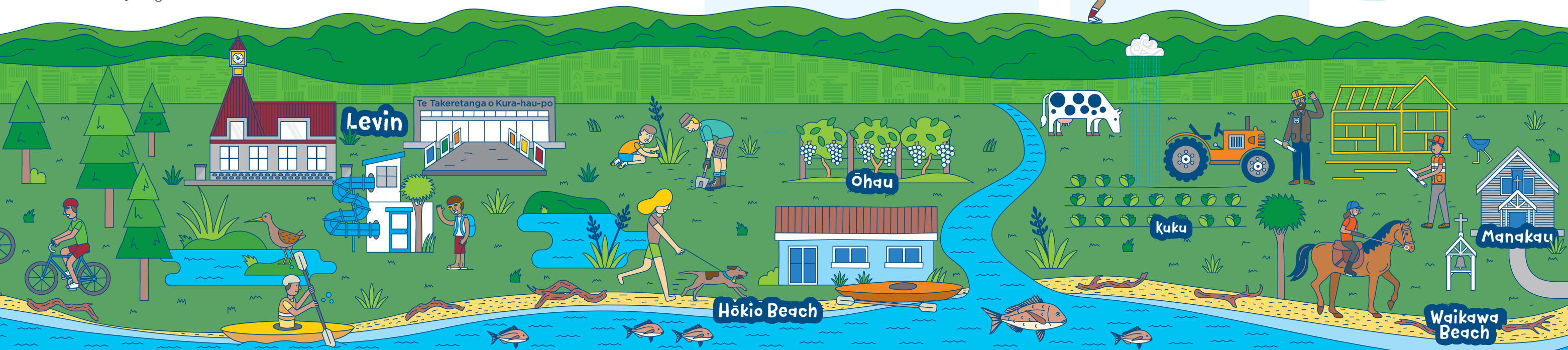
- Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom
- Refurbishment of Levin Aquatic Centre
- Renewals of playgrounds and sports grounds

## What is this showing?

### Council activities and updates on some projects from the LTP

For the costs of each project please refer to Supporting Information such as the Infrastructure Strategy.

- Completed
- Started/ongoing
- Not yet started
- WTP Water Treatment Plant
- WWTP Wastewater Treatment Plant





# Responding to Growth

Growth means new infrastructure will be needed, and that comes at a cost. While the District will be home to more ratepayers, that may not translate into lower rates increases across the board.

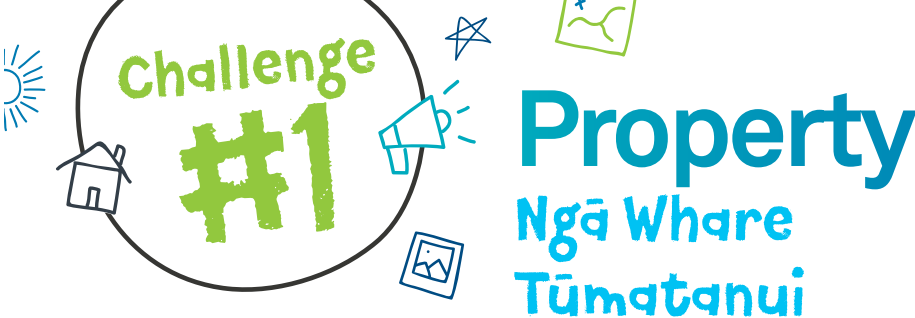
However, it will mean the load is spread across more ratepayers so we can fund new and improved infrastructure required to meet this growth.

In many parts of the country, Development Contributions are used to help pay for new infrastructure and upgrades needed because of growth. There are currently no Development Contributions or similar mechanism in Horowhenua, so this is paid for by all ratepayers. Development Contributions are just one of several options available for Council to use to fund infrastructure. Later this year, Council will explore what options are best fit for our Community, while being mindful of the cost on ratepayers.

Council has been thinking about how it will respond to growth, including through developing the Growth Strategy (see concurrent consultation on page 9).

There are some key challenges and opportunities that come with growth that we want your feedback on. This includes providing infrastructure to growing settlements (page 17) and sustaining our water supply (page 22).

Take a peek at some of the projects we are already doing under this page.



## The Future of our Community Halls

For us to be more efficient in managing our property portfolio, we are focusing on managing property essential to core services. In light of this, there is a desire to concentrate on services valued by the community, reduce ongoing operating costs, renewals and new debt on non-core properties.

In support of our goal to focus investment on core property, Council is considering reducing the number of Community Halls (which are non-core property) for hire or lease. This is due to a significant drop in use of the halls and the increasing costs of maintaining and earthquake-strengthening them.

Council owns and manages a number of community halls in Foxton, Shannon, and Levin. Some of the halls are available for public hire and a number of others are leased to community organisations.

### The halls that are available for public hire are:

- **Foxton Memorial Hall**  
Located on Clyde/Main Street, Foxton and is earthquake prone.
- **Shannon Memorial Hall**  
Located on Grey Street, Shannon.
- **Levin Memorial Hall**  
Located on Queen Street, Levin and is earthquake prone.

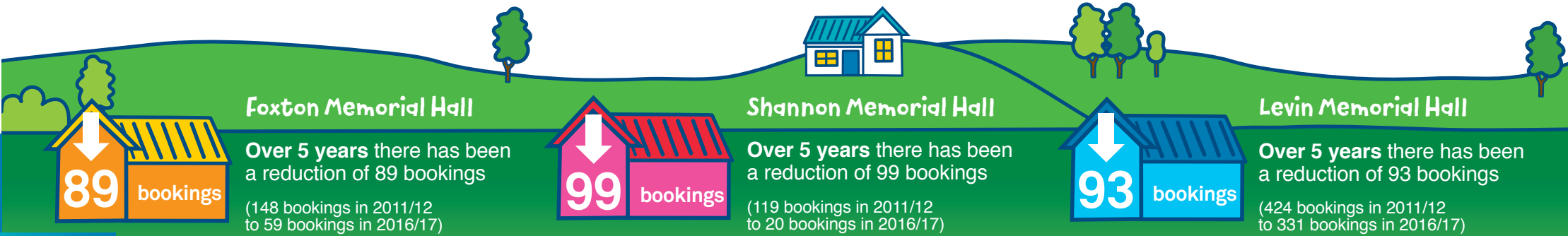
Council has an annual budget of around \$80,000 to manage and maintain these halls. However, we have seen a reduction of use and consequently income from these properties. Income is down around 38% between 2015 (\$21,000) and 2018 (\$13,000).

### The halls that are leased to community organisations are:

- **Foxton Coronation Hall**  
Located on Avenue Road, Foxton and is currently leased to the National Museum of Audio-Visual Arts and Science (MAVtech) for nominal rent. This building is earthquake prone.
- **Courthouse Museum**  
Located on Main Street, Foxton and is leased to Foxton Historic Society for an annual peppercorn fee. This building is also earthquake prone and is currently closed for this reason.

Many of the halls require strengthening due to being earthquake prone.

We want your views on whether we should continue to provide halls for public use and lease.





# Options

## 1 Status Quo

This option involves retaining all the Community Halls. The impact on debt would be \$2,296,184 to earthquake strengthen and maintain. The impact on rates would be \$1.07 for every \$10,000 land value.

## 2 Retain halls available for public hire but not leased properties

This option would see the halls that are available for public hire retained as Council property but not the leased properties (Coronation Hall and Courthouse Museum). The impact on debt would be \$1,407,990 to earthquake strengthen and maintain. The impact on rates would be \$0.56 for every \$10,000 land value.



## 3 Retain leased properties but not halls available for public hire

This option would see the leased properties retained as Council property but not the halls available for public hire (being the memorial halls in Levin, Foxton and Shannon). The impact on debt would be \$888,194 to earthquake strengthen and maintain. The impact on rates would be \$0.22 for every \$10,000 land value.

## 4 None of the Community Halls are retained as Council property and are disposed of

This option would see none of the Community Halls retained as Council property and Council start a disposal process. This option would mean \$2,296,184 is not added to our debt and in terms of rates there would be a saving of \$0.88 for every \$10,000 land value.



# Preferred Option

**In light of the declining use and the significant remediation costs Council's preferred option is Option 4.**

This will reduce potential debt and rates over the term of the LTP. There is a limited impact on Level of Service as the loss of these halls for hire and lease would be compensated by other available facilities. Our desire would be to see the buildings repurposed as important features of the urban townscape and potentially provide additional commercial space in town centres to assist in meeting projected growth demand. However, if selling them proves unsuccessful in some cases there may be no other option but to demolish derelict buildings.

**Note:** the cost of maintenance for the Community Halls has been factored into the draft financials, due to the uncertainty around when they might be sold.



**Got Questions?** Contact **Arthur Nelson**,  
Parks and Property Manager on 06 366 0999.



# Foxton Pool

## Te Puna Kāukau o Te Awahou



### Season length of the Foxton Pool

Since Foxton Pool opened in 2007, every year for Summer the pools open from the start of December to the start of May. The facility includes a 25 metre indoor pool and an indoor play and toddlers' pool.

Those who use the pool suggest a longer season will see better use of the pool including more access to Learn to Swim and aquatic fitness resources. A longer season would provide local clubs that rely on the facility with the opportunity to build capacity and a membership base.

With the current structure and design of the facility, a year round operation is not possible. Therefore other options have been investigated. In the long-term, Council is looking to prepare an aquatics and recreation strategy to set the direction for all the District's facilities.

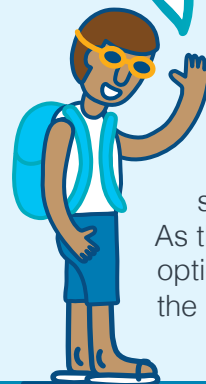
### Options

#### 1 Status Quo

Season length would stay at five months. No financial impact, Level of Service in Foxton stays as is.

#### 2 Extend season length to eight months

The season length of the Foxton Pool would extend from five months to eight months (would open from the start of September to the start of May). This option would involve an additional \$88,000 per annum, equivalent to a \$5.70 increase in rates.



### Preferred Option

**Council's preferred option is Option 2.**

This option has no impact on Council's debt as it would be funded by an increase in rates. Level of Service increases as Learn to Swim classes could operate for two full terms a year, local schools could utilise the facility with less time pressure and transport costs, and the Community would have low-cost exercise options for the majority of the year. This extension of season would be reviewed after two years once the recreation facilities strategy is completed.

As the preferred option, this option has been factored into the draft financials.

# Have your say



## Shannon Community Centre

We are wondering if the Shannon Community want a space to use that provides for more activities than a hall or library. This hub could include rooms for local clubs to use and a safe space for youth to hang out.

**Do you support the development of a Shannon Community Centre?**

**Would you use a Community Centre in Shannon and if so what would you use it for?**

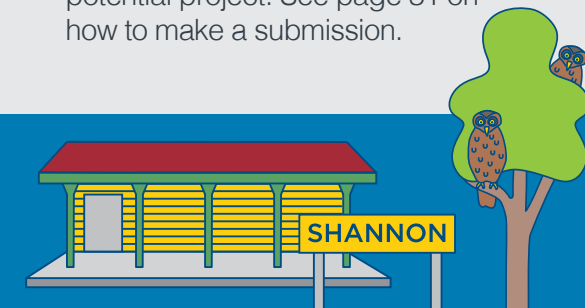
Your feedback will help shape this potential project. See page 31 on how to make a submission.



Supporting information: **Report to FCB**  
Supporting information can be found at  
[www.horowhenua.govt.nz/whatsourfuture](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/whatsourfuture)

### Got Questions?

Contact **James Richmond**,  
Community Services Manager on 06 366 0999.



# Water Supply and Wastewater

## Te Whakarato Wai Māori me te Wai Para



### Providing new drinking water and wastewater infrastructure to our growing settlements

As more people move to our District we expect the demand for services will increase, particularly from those that move here from locations where these services are already available.

We also expect that most population growth will occur in areas that have higher Levels of Service, i.e. Levin, meaning smaller villages may miss out on realising the full potential from growth.

Now is the right time to have a conversation about introducing a new Level of Service to our settlements - what might be needed in the future and when that work should be done.

Council wants to hear from the Community on the future need for reticulated drinking water systems, wastewater networks and treatment systems for Manakau, Ōhau, Waikawa Beach and Hōkio Beach.

Waitārere Beach already has a wastewater network and treatment system, so we want to hear from the Community about the future need for a reticulated drinking water system.

It's important to understand Council has to not only make decisions based on what current residents think, but also consider the needs of future generations.

We are expecting growth in more areas than these settlements but these are the places with no (or some) existing water supply and wastewater infrastructure.

The Growth Strategy we are consulting on will look at future growth areas (page 9).





# Challenge #3 Options

For each option we have separated the settlements so you can pick one or more locations for each option. See submission form.

There is a risk that growth will not occur as anticipated. If this happens, we may alter the timeframes or not proceed with the development of the proposed schemes.

## 1 Status Quo

At this time no additional services would be provided to the settlements. There is no extra cost if all these locations are selected for status quo. However, we may find that most new residents move to other places where services are provided.

- ☐ Hōkio Beach
- ☐ Manakau
- ☐ Ōhau
- ☐ Waikawa Beach
- ☐ Waitārere Beach


## 2 Provide water and wastewater to existing settlement and growth areas

This option would see water and wastewater infrastructure provided to both the existing settlement and growth areas of the locations.

	 Water Supply (per year)	 Wastewater (per year)
<b>Hōkio Beach</b>	\$11,935,851 <b>\$75.60</b> (from 2036/37)	\$15,605,009 <b>\$100.90</b> (from 2036/37)
<b>Manakau</b>	\$9,113,862 <b>\$63.60</b> (from 2031/32)	\$7,083,320 <b>\$49.80</b> (from 2031/32)
<b>Ōhau</b>	\$5,925,674 <b>\$44.60</b> (from 2027/28)	\$20,340,528 <b>\$77.40</b> (from 2028/29)
<b>Waikawa Beach</b>	\$8,052,300 <b>\$52.50</b> (from 2034/35)	\$9,917,727 <b>\$64.70</b> (from 2034/35)
<b>Waitārere Beach</b>	\$19,965,516 <b>\$117.60</b> (from 2033/34)	-

## 3 Provide water and wastewater to only growth areas

This option would see water and wastewater infrastructure provided to only growth areas of these locations.

	 Water Supply (per year)	 Wastewater (per year)
<b>Hōkio Beach</b>	\$6,664,000 <b>\$50.00</b> (from 2036/37)	\$8,594,775 <b>\$63.50</b> (from 2036/37)
<b>Manakau</b>	\$5,999,398 <b>\$48.70</b> (from 2031/32)	\$4,156,500 <b>\$34.40</b> (from 2031/32)
<b>Ōhau</b>	\$4,890,500 <b>\$41.20</b> (from 2027/28)	\$8,370,600 <b>\$56.10</b> (from 2028/29)
<b>Waikawa Beach</b>	\$4,945,500 <b>\$38.60</b> (from 2034/35)	\$5,950,700 <b>\$44.90</b> (from 2034/35)
<b>Waitārere Beach</b>	\$11,643,500 <b>\$78.70</b> (from 2033/34)	-

How to read these tables

Providing water infrastructure to Waitārere Beach would cost **\$19,965,516 to build** (impact on debt).

This additional service would mean a **\$117.60 increase in the Water Supply Targeted rate for all households in the Horowhenua District who are connected to water**. This increase would cover costs such as operational expenditure. For Waitārere Beach residents, rates would increase by more as they would begin to pay the Water Supply Targeted rate when they start to receive this service.



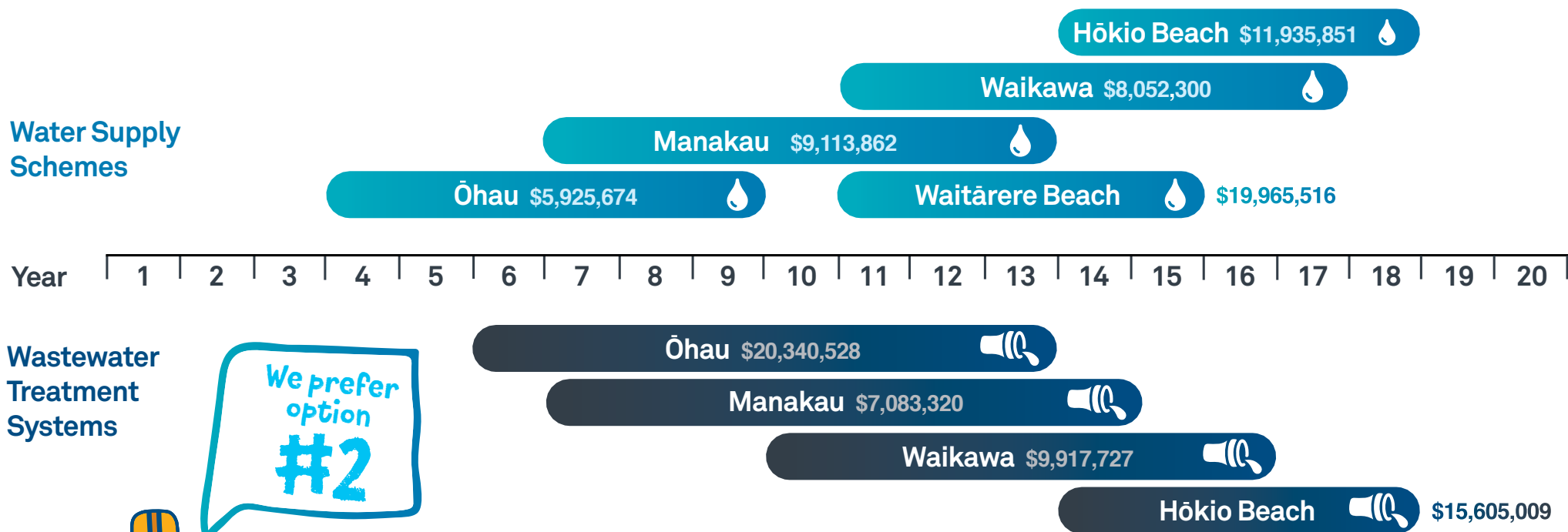
# Preferred Option

Council’s preferred option is **Option 2**.

The impact on Council’s debt from this option is outlined below. If it was decided that all settlements will receive both water and wastewater, a staged approach to introducing these is recommended. This will spread the financial cost over a 20 year period to make them more affordable and meet the expected demand as the community grows. Levels of Service for water and wastewater would increase for these settlements. As the preferred option, this cost has been factored into the draft financials.

As part of this option Council would produce a feasibility study to explore where the water supply would be sourced from and how wastewater would be disposed of for these settlements. This feasibility study would also look at whether the schemes should be separate or combined (with a neighbouring settlement).

**Note:** the full impact on rates would occur the following financial year once the service is being provided. Prior to this there would be an impact from borrowing costs.



Supporting information: **Infrastructure Strategy**  
Supporting information can be found at  
[www.horowhenua.govt.nz/whatsourfuture](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/whatsourfuture)

**Got Questions?**  
Contact **Sarie Van der Walt**,  
Asset Management Engineer on 06 366 0999.

## ‘Sustainable Infrastructure for the District’s growing communities’

# Our Infrastructure

## Ā Tātou Pūnahanga

Our Infrastructure Strategy sets out the 30 year plan for maintaining and improving Levels of Service for:



A key theme throughout this Strategy is the focus on sustainable infrastructure. This involves the challenges, proposed solutions, decisions, and actions taken to achieve long-term infrastructure solutions.

Sustainable infrastructure solutions should:

- Promote the efficient and effective use of resources
- Deliver equity for present and future generations
- Avoid, mitigate and remedy any adverse effect on the environment, and
- Promote the creation of liveable communities with a sense of place and identity.

## Our Goals

To continue to support the wellbeing and future growth of the District, we aspire to achieve the following goals:

- Ensure adequate infrastructural capacity to meet the demands of current and future generations while being affordable for the Community.
- Increase the reliability and resilience of the existing and future infrastructure.
- Ensure sustainable use of resources and protection of critical environmental values.





# Significant Challenges for the District

When it comes to planning infrastructure some of the challenges for our District include those associated with growth, ageing infrastructure, an ageing population, the Wellington Expressway and its impact on our population and economy, climate change and coastal change, and resilience to hazards such as flooding and earthquakes.

A key challenge is growth may occur differently to what we have assumed. To address this we will continue to monitor actual growth patterns and may prioritise new schemes accordingly.

Additionally, we have historically fallen short in the level of renewals required to keep our infrastructure assets in appropriate condition. We have identified the renewals backlog and intend to bridge the gap during the lifetime of our Infrastructure Strategy. This would mainly be funded through rates or if necessary debt.

## Issues affecting all infrastructure

The key issue for our infrastructure assets is not what needs to be provided, but how to maintain existing assets over time. Managing infrastructure

assets well may give us the ability to provide new services for the Community in the future.

A large amount of the District's infrastructure was built in the 1960s and 1970s. With an average age of 60 years, many of these assets are now reaching, or have already passed, the end of their expected life. Maintaining these ageing assets becomes more difficult as their age increases. The District is now facing the challenge of balancing the increasing maintenance and renewal costs.

When prioritising renewals we consider various parameters such as age, condition, failure history, criticality and the road sealing programme (to manage the risk of asset failure) to optimise the renewal budget.

Another key issue is around our condition assessments and managing the discovery of existing assets. We have good knowledge of our asset data, however, we need a better understanding of asset condition. Considering we have been conducting condition assessment of

critical assets and also have planned to continue the condition assessment programme for the next three years, the risk of sudden asset failure is low. To manage and mitigate that risk, we have budgeted separately for District-wide unplanned renewals.



### We want your feedback on some key infrastructure projects:

- Water Supply and Wastewater (**page 17**)
- Water Sustainability (**next page**)





# Water Sustainability

**Making sure our Communities have sufficient and safe drinking water is one of our critical roles. Council promotes sustainable use of water resources to manage water supply and also to service growth in the District.**

For our District, there are quantity issues that need addressing to ensure we can secure supply to our existing and future Communities. Currently our water is supplied from the Tokomaru River, the Mangaore Stream, bores in Foxton and Foxton Beach, and the Ōhau River.

**Did you know  
that Levin uses  
more water  
per day than the  
national average?**

The availability of water from these sources is an issue, especially if extreme dry weather or rain events occur more frequently. To meet our consent conditions, Council must maintain a minimum flow of water in the river downstream of where we take water. When the river is very low, as it was during December and January, the amount of water Council can take is restricted even more. When it does rain, it can take some time for the water to be clear enough for it to be used for supply.

The per capita consumption of water in our District is high with places like Levin using over 400 litres a day compared with a national average of 275 litres per day. Adding pressure to our system is the fact that consumption of water goes up during dry periods. We also experience a loss of water in our network due to leaks.



### Our approach

Council has planned for the installation of pressure reducing valves, leak detection and repair, continuous monitoring and assessment to address the leaks in our system. While this will address part of the issue, we still will not have enough water to supply the existing demand and growth. We are therefore considering installing water meters (depending on further work and as such, has not yet been factored into this LTP). These help you keep track of your use of

water and help us detect where more leaks may be occurring in the system.

If we don't see our ability to sustain water improve as a result of leak detection and water meters, other solutions for us to explore in the long term include:

- Additional water source(s), which would mostly likely be a bore.
- Additional water storage, such as a reservoir or stormwater retention pond.

Further work is required to understand how much these

additional solutions may cost and how they would be funded. These solutions will be consulted on in the future when we are ready to make a decision and may require an amendment to the LTP. As such, only the costs for the first stage, addressing the leaks in our system, have been factored into the draft financials.

### What do you think?

**What do you think of our approach?**

**Do you have any other suggestions?**

See page 31 on how to make a submission.







# Crunching the Numbers

## Te Tātaitai i ngā Utu

### ‘Balancing the Budget while planning for growth and maintaining sustainable infrastructure’

The Financial Strategy is the foundation of Council’s LTP goal of managing growth while living within its means. In order to achieve this, the focus of the Strategy is to balance the budget and to maintain surplus from Year 4 (2021-2022), while ensuring that our infrastructural assets are sustainably managed and comply with legislative requirements.

A key aspect of our Financial Strategy is to try and reach a prudent balance between loan and rate funding for the purchase of new and maintenance of old assets.

To reduce the need to borrow we intend to progressively pay for more asset renewals from rates and operating surpluses, with loans being used to fund capital expenditure (e.g. new assets required for increases in Levels of Service and Growth).

We are signalling higher than normal rates increases in the first five years of the Draft 2018-2038 Long Term Plan in order to achieve the financial goals of:

- Rates funding asset renewals.
- Finding alternative sources of income to fund growth projects.
- Balancing the operating budget.



Supporting information: **Financial Strategy, Funding Impact Statement**  
Supporting information can be found at  
[www.horowhenua.govt.nz/whatsourfuture](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/whatsourfuture)

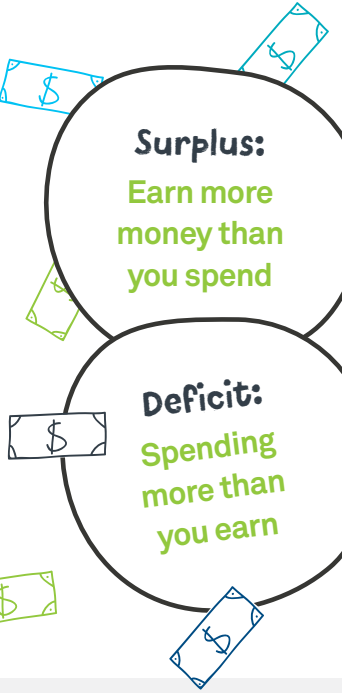
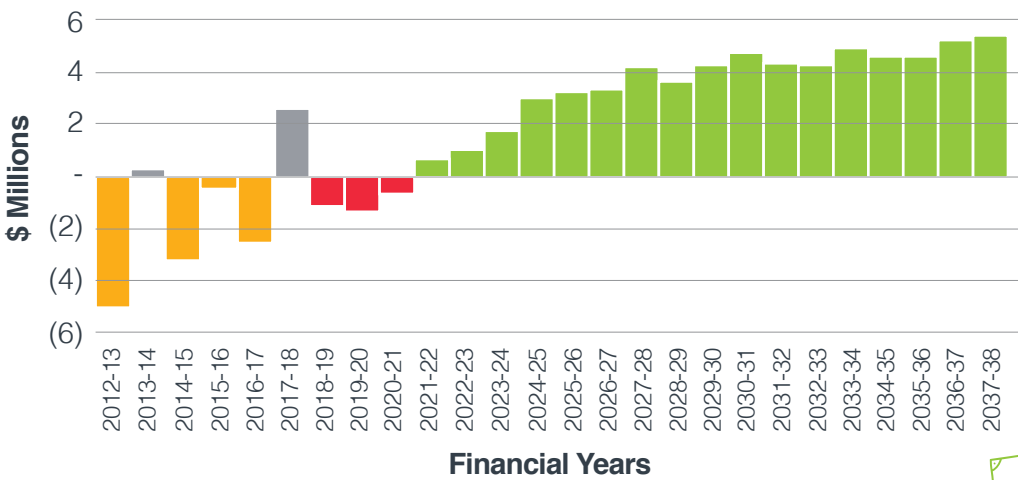
# Balancing Our Budget

Balancing the budget means Council’s operating revenues are equal to or exceed the operating expenditures so there’s no budget deficit.

As shown, Council has a history of budget deficits which in the last LTP we had planned to turnaround by 2018-2019. However, due to increased costs of replacing infrastructure we are now working to turn this around and balance the budget by Year 4 (2021-2022) of this LTP.

By 2021-2022 Council will be operating in surplus, which will allow us to pay off more of our capital project loans (debt) even faster.

Operating Surplus/Deficit



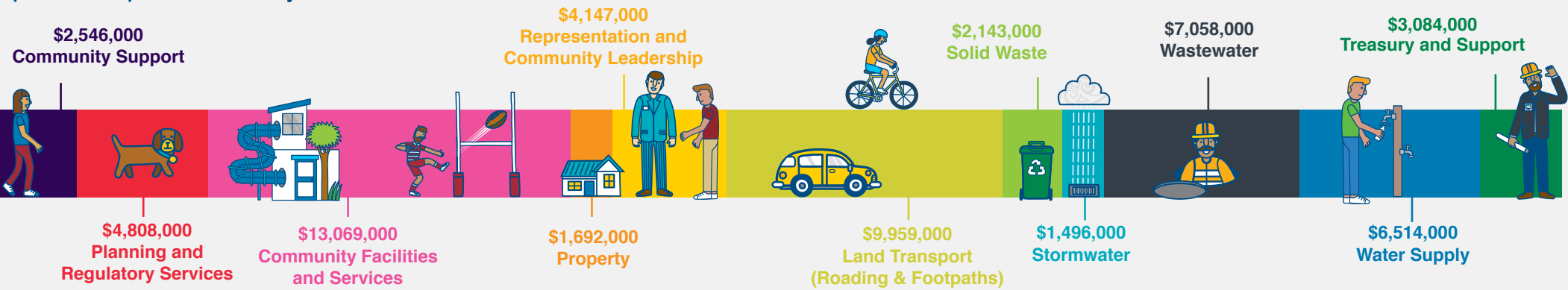
## What are our revenue sources?

Operational revenue for first year of LTP



## What are we spending our money on?

Operational expenditure for first year of LTP



# Let's Talk Rates

Next year's rates are only 0.38% higher than predicted in the 2015-2025 LTP. We are sticking close to our initial limits and projections from our last LTP to ensure our Community receives the best value for money.

Next year's (2018-2019) above inflation rate increase is largely due to circumstances that have arisen. The most significant of these challenges are:



**Our infrastructure underwent a revaluation process** (valuing the costs and current state of assets (e.g. pipes, treatment plants, roads)) and there was a significant increase in the projected cost of funding renewals (by \$1.3m accounting for 3.8% of the proposed 6.53% overall increase). This increase is due to an increase in replacement costs e.g. materials.

This additional cost will ensure our core services (Water Supply, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Land Transport) will continue to provide the promised Level of Service to the Community.

**The opening of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom** comes with an increased operating cost of \$470k (1.34% of the increase).

To lower the cost would mean lowering the Level of Service, such as limiting the opening hours of the facility.

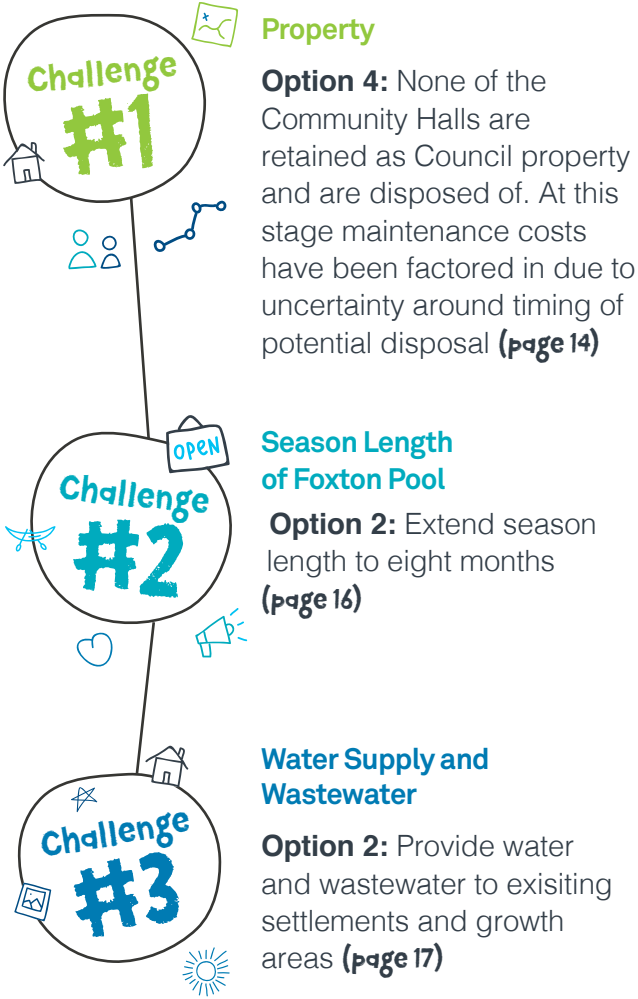


Level of Service (LoS):

The quality of a service a Council Activity is committed to provide the community

## Options

Remember, each preferred challenge option has already been factored into the proposed rates increases (next page) and debt limits (page 29).





# Our Proposed Rate Limits

Over the last six years ratepayers have experienced above-inflation rate increases. These higher than desirable increases will continue to occur over the first five years of the LTP, as Council works to balance the budget and plan for growth.

We understand these levels of increases are neither desired nor sustainable, and are committed to getting the most value out of every dollar spent with the right balance between progress and affordability.

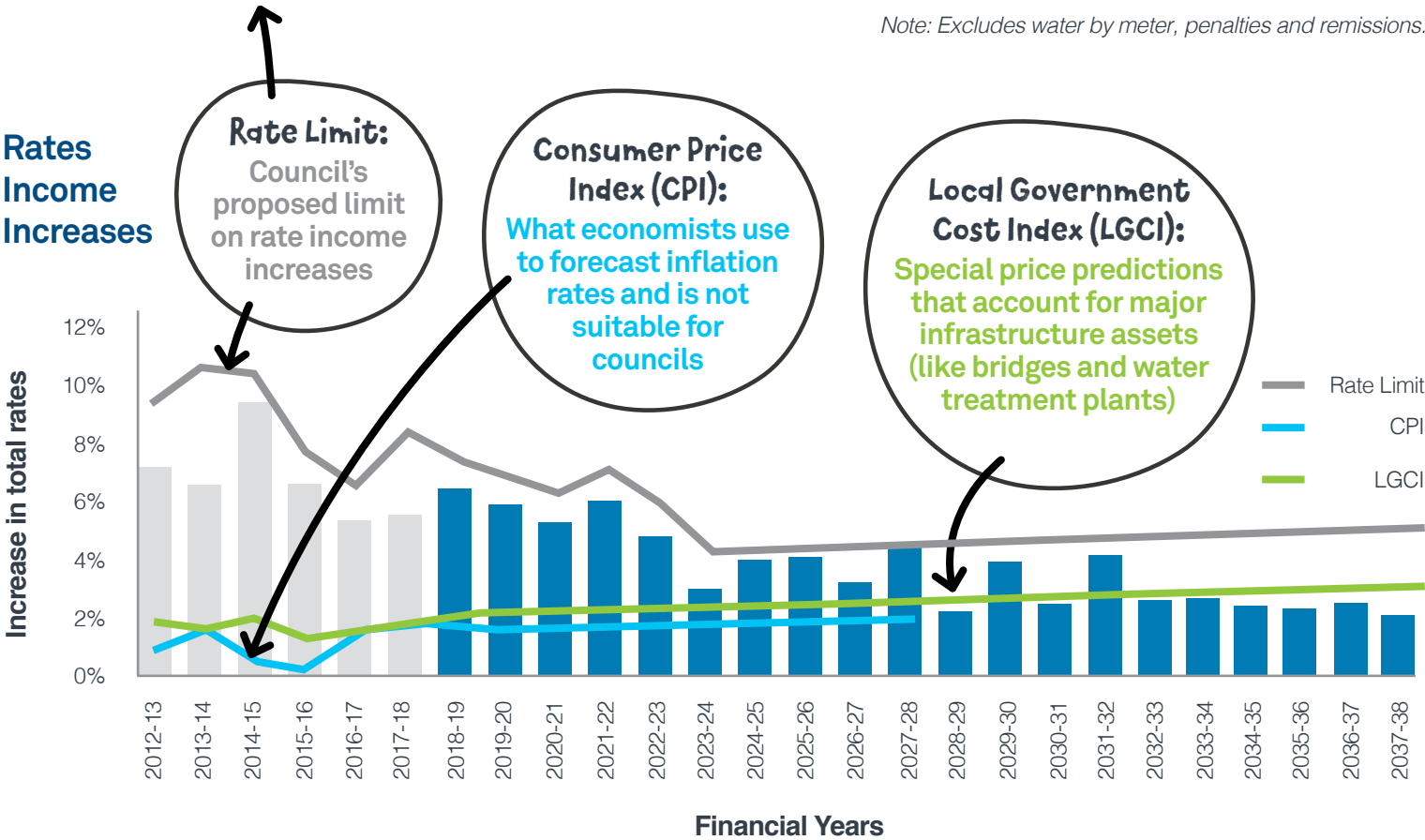
## Our proposed rate increases over 20 years are:

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37	2037-38
6.53%	5.97%	5.40%	6.42%	4.92%	2.91%	3.99%	4.19%	3.30%	4.47%	2.32%	4.02%	2.58%	4.23%	2.69%	2.75%	2.46%	2.38%	2.58%	2.10%

This includes anticipated growth in the rating base (more households to spread the rates) and does not include water by meter rates, penalties and remissions. Individual households may experience a higher or lower rates increase than this figure depending on what rates they are subject to. Refer to the next page for indicative rates.

Overview of Rate Limit	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 and following years
Rates Income Percentage Increases (will not exceed)	7.53%	6.97%	6.40%	7.42%	5.92%	LGCI +2%
Total Rates Income (\$000) (will not exceed)	\$37,801	\$40,057	\$42,223	\$44,930	\$47,148	\$48,711 to \$76,318

Note: Excludes water by meter, penalties and remissions.



# Indicative Rates

We have reviewed our Revenue and Financing Policy and rating system to determine how Council's costs will be divided across the Community. Following the review we are not proposing any changes to our rating system this year. This means the General rates (which contribute to the cost of the wider Community) and the Targeted rates (which are used to raise revenue for activities that benefit a specific activity or service) will remain using the same system. Next year (Year 2 of the LTP) Council has committed to review the rating system by considering Capital Value Rating, the use of Development Contributions, and explore any other source of capital funding that may be available.

We have used the District's median house prices to demonstrate the proposed rate increases.

*Note: Excludes water by meter, penalties and remissions.*

Want to see how rates will affect your property?



We encourage you to compare your own rates online using the Rating Calculator at [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/whatsourfuture](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/whatsourfuture) or call us for assistance on (06) 366 0999.



## Urban Residential

(based on a property with a capital value of \$225,000 and land value of \$83,000)



## Urban Business

(based on a property with a capital value of \$525,000 and land value of \$175,000)



## Rural Residential

(based on a property with a capital value of \$430,000 and land value of \$163,000)



## Farming Business

(based on a property with a capital value of \$1,440,000 and land value of \$1,180,000)

### Rate \$

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
General	463	446	477	511	976	941	1005	1078	790	877	936	1004	1,836	1,905	2,042	2,184
Roading	175	181	178	174	353	369	367	363	334	346	341	333	968	1,013	1,007	994
Stormwater	94	104	115	121	220	243	269	282	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Centres and Library	238	268	301	304	238	268	301	304	238	268	301	304	238	268	301	304
Representation and Community Leadership	233	227	230	244	233	227	230	244	233	227	230	244	233	227	230	244
Aquatic Centres	148	153	155	158	148	153	155	158	148	153	155	158	148	153	155	158
Solid Waste	23	23	23	21	23	23	23	21	17	16	16	16	17	16	16	16
Water Supply	401	457	463	473	401	457	463	473	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wastewater Disposal	589	628	675	727	589	628	675	726	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Rates \$</b>	<b>2,364</b>	<b>2,487</b>	<b>2,617</b>	<b>2,733</b>	<b>3,181</b>	<b>3,309</b>	<b>3,488</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>1,887</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>2,059</b>	<b>3,440</b>	<b>3,582</b>	<b>3,751</b>	<b>3,900</b>
Total \$ increase		123	130	116		128	179	162		127	92	80		142	169	149
Total % increase		5.20%	5.23%	4.43%		4.02%	5.41%	4.64%		7.22%*	4.88%	4.04%		4.13%	4.72%	3.97%

\*This figure is a result of the final year of the 10 year differential change for rural residential. See Funding Impact Statement.

# Debt Limits

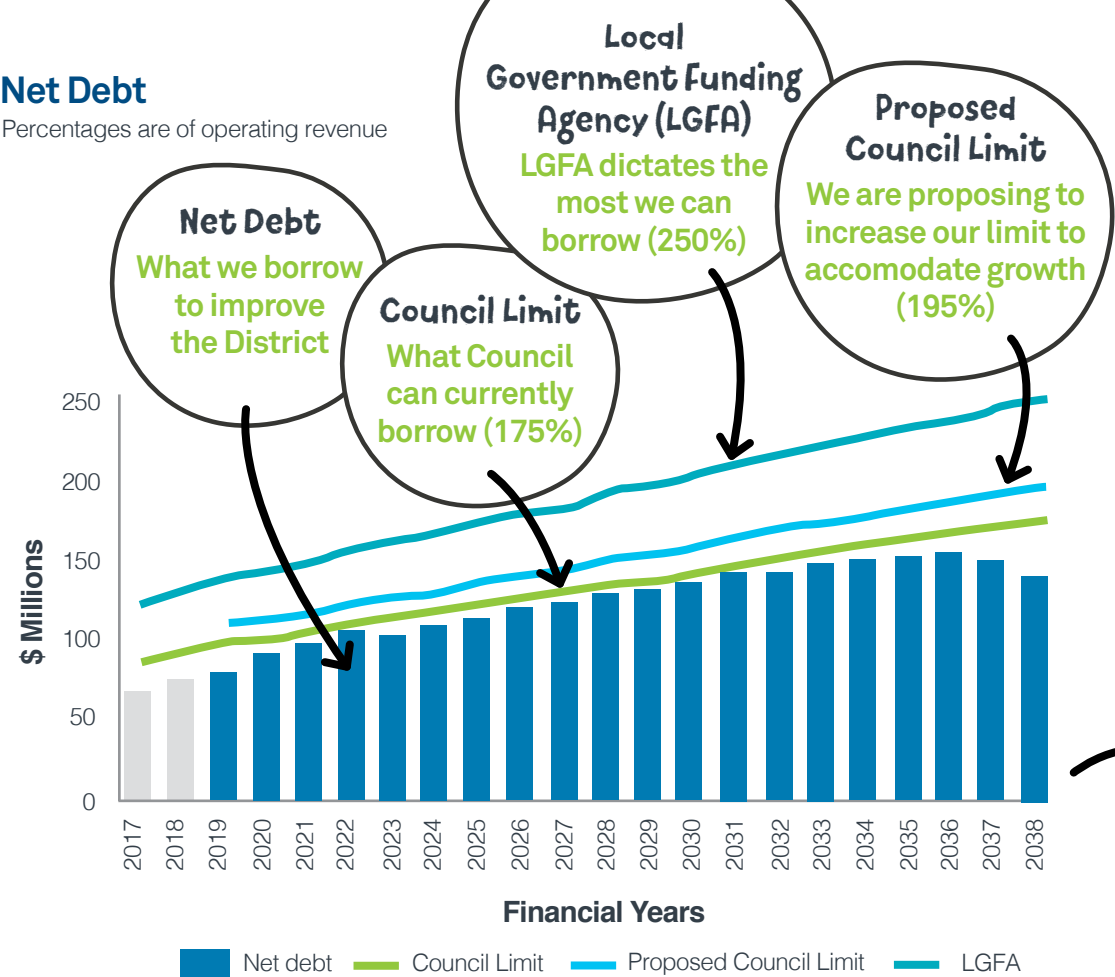
Our Financial Strategy takes into account Horowhenua's projected growth over the next 20 years. Growth will require an increase in services and infrastructure to ensure our District is fit for purpose. Debt is primarily driven by capital expenditure, and the need to fund new infrastructure in response to growth means there will be a significant amount of growth-funded debt over the next decade.

In May 2017 it was confirmed that Council had retained its A+ credit rating from Standard and Poors (this means Council remains financially sound). The A+ credit rating contributes to Council's ability to take on higher levels of debt. Debt funding is pivotal to fund our growth programmes as well as increases to Level of Service. The LGFA limit provides us with a buffer to respond to events such as natural disasters.

# Revenue and Financing Policy

We are not proposing to change the rating system as part of this review. We have updated the Policy to align with current local government functions.

**Net Debt**  
Percentages are of operating revenue



## What do you think?

Have we got the balance right between rates increases and debt levels?

Do the proposed changes improve the process?

See page 31 on how to make a submission.

# Remissions of Rates on Māori Freehold Land

The Māori Rates Remission Policy requires a review every six years and sets out circumstances where Māori Freehold Land owners can apply for remissions on their rates. Council is proposing to change the conditions and criteria required to apply for remissions, making the process easier for Māori Freehold Land owners overall.



# Auditor Report

## Te Pūrongo a te Kaiarotake

### Independent auditor's report on Horowhenua District Council's Consultation Document for its proposed 2018 28 Long Term Plan

I am the Auditor General's appointed auditor for Horowhenua District Council (the Council). Section 93C of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires an audit report on the Council's consultation document. We have done the work for this report using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand. We completed our report on 19 February 2018.

## Opinion

In my opinion:

- the consultation document provides an effective basis for public participation in the Council's decisions about the proposed content of its 2018-28 long term plan, because it:
  - fairly represents the matters proposed for inclusion in the long term plan; and
  - identifies and explains the main issues and choices facing the Council and district, and the consequences of those choices; and
- the information and assumptions underlying the information in the consultation document are reasonable.

## Basis of opinion

We carried out our work in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised): Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information. In meeting the requirements of this standard, we took into account particular elements of the Auditor General's Auditing Standards and the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3400: The Examination of

Prospective Financial Information that were consistent with those requirements.

We assessed the evidence the Council has to support the information and disclosures in the consultation document. To select appropriate procedures, we assessed the risk of material misstatement and the Council's systems and processes applying to the preparation of the consultation document.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the publication of the consultation document.

## Responsibilities of the Council and auditor

The Council is responsible for:

- meeting all legal requirements relating to its procedures, decisions, consultation, disclosures, and other actions associated with preparing and publishing the consultation document and long term plan, whether in printed or electronic form;
- having systems and processes in place to provide the supporting information and analysis the Council needs to be able to prepare a consultation document and long term plan that meet the purposes set out in the Act; and
- ensuring that any forecast financial information being presented has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

I am responsible for reporting on the consultation document, as required by section 93C of the Act. I do not express an opinion on the merits of any policy content of the consultation document.

## Independence

In carrying out our work, we complied with the Auditor General's:

- independence and other ethical requirements, which incorporate the independence and ethical requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 (Revised); and
- quality control requirements, which incorporate the quality control requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 3 (Amended).

Other than our work in carrying out all legally required external audits, and an engagement in the area of assurance review of the District Council's Debenture Trust Deed, which is compatible with those requirements, we have no relationship with or interests in the Council.

**Debbie Perera**  
**Audit New Zealand**

On behalf of the Auditor General,  
Palmerston North, New Zealand

# Have your say on our future

Kōrero mai mō tā tātou  
ahunga whakamua

There are a number of ways you can find  
out more information on any aspect of this  
document or the LTP process:



You can visit our website at  
[www.horowhenua.govt.nz/whatsourfuture](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/whatsourfuture)



You can get in contact with one of our Council staff  
on **06 366 0999** or Elected Members (Elected  
Member contact details are on page 3 of this  
Document).



Email us at [whatsourfuture@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:whatsourfuture@horowhenua.govt.nz)



We will be at the following events for you to  
**come speak to us:**

- Saturday February 24, Let's Move Together,  
Levin Aquatic Centre
- Saturday March 3, Shannon BBQ, Te Maire Park
- Saturday March 10, Foxton Beach Summer Market
- Saturday March 17, Ōhau Market

Supporting Information includes the Financial and Infrastructure Strategies, Financial Statements, Policies, Activity Statements and other information, such as the Assumptions and the Report on the Foxton Pool. This Information can be found on our website or at one of our service centres in Levin (Council Office/Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō), Foxton (Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom) or Shannon Library.

## How to make a submission - it's easy!

Anyone can make a submission on this Consultation Document by either filling out an online form on our website or by filling out the freepost form provided with this document (which can also be picked up at and delivered to our service centres).



**Submissions can be delivered to:**  
Horowhenua District Council Offices,  
126 Oxford Street, Levin

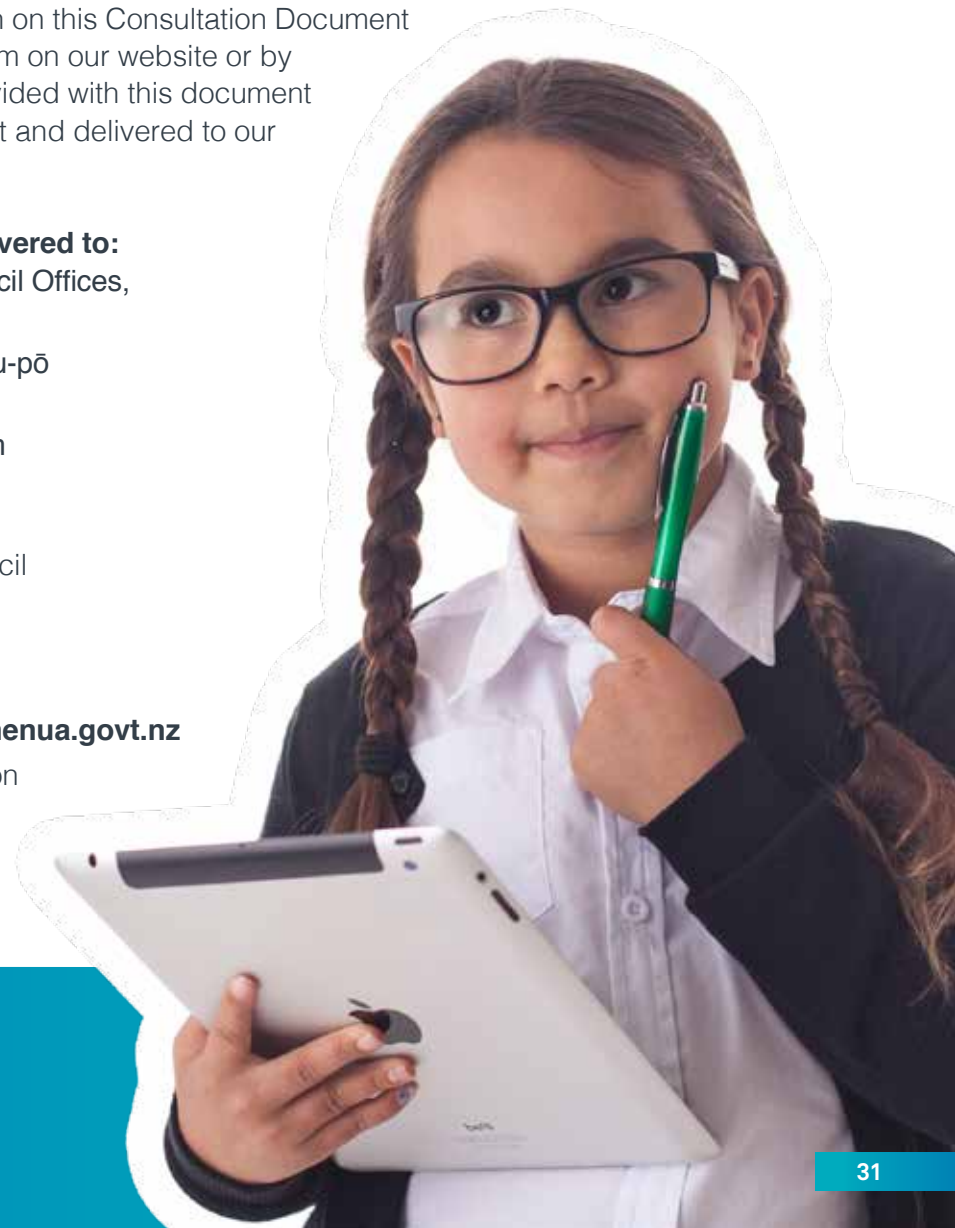
**Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō**  
Bath Street, Levin

**Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom**  
Harbour Street, Foxton

**Posted to:**  
Horowhenua District Council  
Private Bag 4002  
Levin 5540

**Emailed to:**  
[whatsourfuture@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:whatsourfuture@horowhenua.govt.nz)

When you make your submission  
you can choose to present at  
a Council Hearing.



**Submissions close**  
**Monday 26 March 2018**

What's our  
future?

Thanks for  
reading!

